

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Official Action dated June 14, 2005, the period for responding being set to expire on September 14, 2005. Claims 1-24, 30-37, 42, 44, 46, 48, 53 and 55 are pending in the application.

I. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 30, and 34 to include the limitation that the database is operable to store "electronic watermark information corresponding to each of said contents." Applicants contend that there is support in the specification for this amendment and no new matter has been added. See, e.g., Application, paragraph 69.

Claims 25-29, 38-41, 43, 45, 47, 49-52, 54, and 56-60 have been cancelled.

II. KURODA FAILS TO TEACH OR SUGGEST THE LIMITATIONS OF APPLICANTS' CLAIMED INVENTION

Applicants respectfully submit that in light of the above amendments and following remarks, the Examiner's reliance on U.S. Patent No. 6,707,774 to Kuroda ("Kuroda") to anticipate or render Applicants' claimed invention obvious is overcome.

Independent claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 30 and 34 now recite that the database is operable to "store electronic watermark information corresponding to each of said contents." According to Applicants' claimed invention, electronic watermark information, which includes identification information, attribute information, and a hash value, is added to contents to be copied and subsequently stored in the electronic watermark management database when the contents have been copied. See Application, paragraph 69. The database therefore contains electronic watermark information corresponding to each of the individual contents that have been copied. In this regard, each time new contents are copied, corresponding new electronic watermark information is also copied and stored in the database.

In stark contrast, the CGMS tables of Kuroda do not store individual electronic watermark information which corresponds to each of the contents in the database. For example, electronic watermark information that is specific to a particular content, such as attribute information or identification information, cannot be retrieved from the CGMS tables. Rather, the CGMS table is "recorded in advance in the memory of the controller 20, and the controller 20 carries out the record restriction by using the control management table." See Col. 14, lns. 41-44; see also Col. 10, lns. 8-12. Indeed, the CGMS table is not capable of storing information specific to each of the contents, nor does Kuroda teach or suggest the storage of such information.

Referring to FIG. 5 of Kuroda, the CGMS table contains pre-set categories, *i.e.*, never copy, one copy, and copy-free, which correspond to either "prohibition" or "permission." By way of example, if the contents to be copied contain "copy-free", the controller 20 references the CGMS table, compares the "copy-

free" on the contents to the "copy free" category in the CGMS table, and allows or permits copying of the contents. But, despite the fact that the controller allows the contents to be copied, individual electronic watermark information relating to the contents is not stored in the CGMS table. Rather, the CGMS table remains as is, and is never updated to reflect the new electronic watermark information for the newly copied contents.

Applicants further note that including electronic watermark information to be stored in the database allows the copy management system to skip the subsequent watermark screening process if it is determined that the electronic watermark information is already contained in the database. See Application, paragraph 70. Accordingly, Kuroda does not teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

Application No.: 09/870,207

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.0-174

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: September 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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